

REMARKS

Claim 15 has been amended. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 15, 32-34, 41, 97, 99 and 102 are pending.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on September 22, 2004 with Applicant's representative James A. Larson. During the interview, the rejection to claim 15 and the Abel reference were discussed. Applicant's representative pointed out that the aspheric reflector 42 is not the second reflection surface in either Figure 2 or Figure 3 of Abel, as recited in claim 15. The Examiner indicated that the reflector 42 in Abel has both a concave portion and a convex portion. Applicant's representative explained that claim 15 recites more than a second reflection surface having a concave portion and a convex portion; that the second reflection surface is concave and convex in the claimed planes and that Abel does not disclose a reflection surface that is concave and convex in the claimed planes. The Examiner indicated agreement with Applicant's representative, but requested that claim 15 be amended to recite the orientation along which the concave and convex cross-sectional shapes are viewed. In a subsequent telephone call with the Examiner on October 26, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the amendments to claim 15 included in this response would overcome the rejection to claim 15 in view of Abel.

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on June 4, 2004, prior to the mailing date of the current office action. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the information cited therein and return a copy of Form 1449 with the next communication with the references initialed as being considered.

Claims 15 and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abel (U.S. Patent No. 3,811,749).

Claim 97 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abel in view of Ohzawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,993,010).

Claim 102 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abel in view of Ohzawa as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Willey (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,574).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Abel does not disclose a second reflection surface as claimed in claim 15, where the second reflection surface, seen from an incident side of the light fluxes, is concave in a cross-sectional shape taken in the vicinity of its vertex along a plane containing vertices of the

reflection surfaces, and, seen from the incident side of the light fluxes, is convex in a cross-sectional shape taken in a direction perpendicular to the plane.

Therefore, claim 15 is patentable over Abel. Claims 97, 99 and 102 depend from claim 15 and are patentable along with claim 15 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. By not separately addressing claims 97, 99 and 102, Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejections thereto.


Claims 1-6, 8-10, 32-34 and 41 are allowed. The remaining claims are believed to be allowable as well.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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